



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Daniel Ralyea, Director
Office of Research and Data Analysis

DATE: January 22, 2016

RE: Performance Add-on Weighting PowerSchool Reports

The PS SC28 Add-On Weightings Report, designed to calculate performance add-on weighting, was intended to determine funding based on a student's performance on the most recent state assessment available for that student. The report did not function as intended. A malfunction failed to update a student's status when the student changed from the lowest performance level to another category. This resulted in some students being incorrectly identified for funding.

Several districts reported this error; in the course of investigating the error, another situation became apparent. Students in grades 10 and 11 would not have a historical score in the PowerSchool report on which to base funding. In order to determine the most equitable funding allowed by State law, the following remedy was applied: A three-year-history testing file was created. The students were matched to their most recent exam in the file, and funding projections were based on those matches. This allowed add-on weighting to be applied to the high school students who had not tested in the previous year.

PowerSchool state-reporting developers are working on correcting the error in the report design. An update may be in place prior to the 135-day extraction.

cc: District Business/Financial Officers
District Technology Coordinators